

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The axle housing 12 as shown in Figure 2A includes a first housing half 22 and a second housing half 24. The housing halves 22, 24 are preferably symmetrical, however non-symmetrical halves could also be used. Suspension flanges 26 are directly or integrally formed as part of each housing half 22, 24. Preferably, the axle housing includes suspension flanges 26 on each end of the axle housing 12. A first set of suspension flanges 26a is formed on one end and a second set of flanges 26b is formed on an opposite end, see Figure 1. Further, in one embodiment, each set of flanges 26a, 26b, can include flanges on opposing sides of the axle housing 12. For example, as shown in Figure 2B the first set of flanges 26a includes a fore set of flanges 26a₁, and an aft set of flanges 26a₂. The second set of flanges 26b are similarly formed.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] In one embodiment, the flanges 46, 52 include at least one aperture 54 that receives a fastener 56. The suspension component 30 is bolted or otherwise fastened to the flanges 46, 52 by inserting the fastener 56 into the aperture 54. Preferably, multiple fasteners 56 are used to provide a secure attachment interface. Any type of fastener can be used including threaded fasteners, rivets, u-bolts, etc. Optionally, the fastener 56 can be eliminated and the suspension component 30 can be welded directly to the flanges 46, 52. In this configuration, the welding of the suspension component 30 would be away from the flange ends formed into the axle housing 12 to prevent stress concentration effects, thereby preventing adverse impact to fatigue life.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] As shown in Figure 6, the use of the first 26a and second 26b sets of flanges can also be used to accommodate variations in suspension spring centers. The same sets of suspension flanges 26a, 26b can be used for suspensions having at least two (2) different spring centers SC1, SC2, with one spring center SC2 being narrower than the other spring center SC1. Thus, various suspension attachment centers can be accommodated by drilling the ~~holes~~apertures 54 at different locations along the flanges 46, 52, or by welding at different locations.